

# GRAFFITI

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You call your friend, urgently needing to talk to him or her, but at the end of the receiver, this is what you get: "I'm unable to get to the phone at the moment. Please leave your name and number at the sound of the tone, and I will get back with you shortly."

Angrily, you hang up the phone and say to yourself, "If I had wanted to talk to a \*@#%&\*! machine, I would have asked for a machine!"

Don't lose hope.

Those people who own answering machines are beginning to understand the frustrations of their callers.

Unfortunately, they haven't destroyed their answering machines. They've just become more creative in the messages they put on them.

Some answering machine owners have resorted to pre-recorded messages that are impressions of famous personalities like these:

Alfred Hitchcock — "Good evening. I do hope that this doesn't give you a fright, but it seems that I'm all tied up."

Richard Nixon — "I'm here today recording these phone calls purely in the interest of national security. I swear this tape will be erased. Trust me."

James Cagney — "You, you dirty rat, you. You must be the dirty rat who called last time and didn't leave a message. Shame on you."

Bill Cosby — "The people aren't home, and if you hate answering machines as much as I hate pudding, you're gonna hate me because you and I, we're on an answering machine. So, when you hear the beep, say jello and leave your name and message too."

Henry Kissinger — "Our interpreters are tied up now. I will negotiate a call back."

Wolfman Jack — "Hey baby, what's happening? Got my mojo working. I'm ready for some back-seat boogeying 'cause the folks are outta sight."

Miss Piggy — "Thank you for choosing moi to answer your call. Oh, what an honor. I never dreamed I would reach such lofty heights. Me? Why me? Leave your name and number at the sound of the beep. Au revoir, mon cherie."

Louis Armstrong (singing) — "Oh well, hello, Dolly. Well, hello, Dolly. It's so nice to hear your voice right through the phone. There's no one here, Dolly, but don't fear, Dolly. We'll record your name and number at the tone. Oh yeah!"

Jackie Gleason — "Norton! Is that you, Norton? Look, pal, I know this is a necessity, but I told you not to call me from the sewer. I don't like dirty phone calls. So leave a message at the tone."

Barbara Walters — "Your name? What do you have to say

for yourself? Don't you think it would be in the best interest of the folks if you left that information at the sound of the beep? Well, are you going to do it or not? Say something!"

Next time you call a friend and get an answering machine instead, maybe you'll get lucky. Instead of just talking to a machine, you could end up talking to a celebrity. Then you can hang up.

## Metals

said. There's also no need to worry about titanium jewelry changing shape. According to Johnson, "titanium is one of the few metals that can be exposed to 2,000 degrees on one end and sub-zero temperatures on the other, and it still won't warp."

Along with Creative Metalsmiths and Light Years, The Beach Connection joins the space-age list, showcasing a few pairs of niobium earrings made by the Holly Yashi Guarantee, located in Arcata, Calif. During the

six years the company has been using niobium, demand for the metal has increased so much that by last year it was creating over 100,000 pairs of hand-crafted, bright earrings.

General manager Catherine Andrews attributes niobium's popularity to its ability to be colored brightly. "One of the wonderful qualities about niobium is its ability to bring out the brilliance in what you're wearing," she says.

The company has few accounts in the South. It has picked up the

accounts it holds by accident. But the Guarantee is planning some Atlanta shows, according to Andrews. Both Johnson and Mautsby agree that niobium and titanium's two biggest havens are New York and California, because they are usually the most progressive and open markets.

But Johnson says that both of the space-age metals have landed, and that they have saturated the markets virtually everywhere.

Not to mention the Defense Department.



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